



# CIAC

## Asthma Coalition Interim Update

April 11, 2005



### **OUR COALITION IN ACTION**

#### **Camp Super Breathers:**

Plans are coming right along for the 7th annual Camp Super Breathers. It will be held August 8-12 at Sawtooth Methodist Camp. The theme this year is "Harry Potter and the Asthma Avengers". Special attraction this year is professional harmonica player Dennis Cooper and his wife who will volunteer at camp as well as teach breathing skills through harmonica playing. They will be available for private lessons as well. We need lots of kids 8-13 years old. We have a grant from the National Asthma Camp Consortium for \$2500 but we need at least 50 kids. So send any and all you can. Scholarships are available.

#### **NACo Grant**

Michelle Butler, our CIAC member in McCall has been incredibly busy working on the National Association of Counties, Clean Indoor Air Grant we received in January. As a part of this grant, Michelle has been providing community education, patient education, and physician education in the communities of McCall, Cascade and Donnelly. Michelle and Jenn have been working on obtaining educational materials, spacers, and peak flow meters for a volunteer to assemble into patient education packs. These packs will help provide asthma resources to better help patients manage their condition. In addition, Michelle is working to bring the "A" is for Asthma" program into local daycare settings. It will be very exciting to see the impact of this targeted outreach effort.

#### **Asthma School Staff Surveys**

Jeanne Innis, CDHD MSW intern, has completed the school staff surveys concerning the asthma inhaler law passed last session. Jeanne targeted a large cross-section of schools from Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Kuna, Mountain Home and Horseshoe Bend. From her efforts, we were able to provide some schools with additional asthma resources, including the SAMMI: School Asthma Management Model for Idaho manual as well as extra Asthma Patient Action Plans to hand out to parents of children with Asthma. The initial finding from our survey is that all but two of the schools surveyed have policies allowing elementary age students with asthma to carry their metered dose inhalers. Only one school continues to disallow students from carrying their inhalers. Two schools allow middle and high school students to have their medication on hand but elementary students are not permitted to carry their inhalers. There remains great concern over improper or intentional misuse (including overuse) of inhalers among elementary students as well as lost/misplaced inhalers. School nursing staff also cited medication management and parent information of when children are using their inhalers as a concern.

Of the parent surveys that have been returned to date, it appears as though the over-arching theme is education. Most parents who responded do not see a problem with a child carrying an inhaler as long as she/he is properly educated in using it and other students are knowledgeable about not using another child's medication. Some parents also indicated a concern over stigma and teasing related to inhaler use. Parents were almost evenly split in believing that a child carrying an inhaler would either increase or decrease the social stigma of asthma in elementary school. More information on statewide findings will be available in August.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**World Asthma Day is May 3rd!** ALA will be teaming up with Central District Health Department and the Meridian Boys & Girls Club to host an asthma screening at the Meridian Boys & Girls Club location, times are yet to be determined – look for more information soon!

#### **WORLD ASTHMA DAY**

Jenn is still working on our proclamation – you still have a little time left to get information in!

**WAD Art contest!** The theme of the poster contest will be clean indoor and outdoor air. Children will be asked to draw a picture, write a story a poem or a song about breathing clean air. The back of the contest page will include information on clean air and how it relates to asthma.

#### **Asthma Prevention & Control Meetings 2005**

The Public Health Training Meeting on May 11 and the All Coalitions Meeting on May 12 have been cancelled. The All Coalitions meeting has been replaced with the regular quarterly State Asthma Coalition meeting.

**May 17: Coalition Meeting.** The next Coalition meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 in the Syringa Room at Central District Health Department from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., a light lunch will be served as usual. Jean Woodward from the State office will be joining us for our annual site visit.

**May 12:** Jenn Darling will present at Micron for their brown bag lunch on Asthma & Allergies, covering basic education and awareness.

#### **ASTHMA EDUCATION:**

Please contact Jenn Darling at 327-8591 with ideas for future asthma awareness events that you would like the coalition to pursue.